

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02077 111830Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111839Z 026138 /50/43

O R 111635Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1254
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 2077

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 9.)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US EG XF
SUBJECT: SADAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON--MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN

REF: STATE 077289

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE SADAT TRIP WITH
KING HUSSEIN. KING LOOKS FORWARD TO HIS OWN WASHINGTON
VISIT. HE HAS DECIDED AGAINST SEEING ASAD BEFORE
COMING TO WASHINGTON. HE HAS REBUFFED PLO FEELERS
FOR ANOTHER MEETING WITH ARAFAT AND TO TAKE WITH HIM
TO WASHINGTON IN HIS DELEGATION A PLO MEMBER.
KING SAYS ARAFAT MAY HAVE SHIFTED HIS POSITION
AGAIN, POSSIBLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM SADAT. SOVIETS
ALSO ACTIVE IN THE AREA AND POSSIBLY ALSO CARRYING
MESSAGE FROM PLO REQUESTING INCLUSION OF PLO MEMBER
IN KING'S PARTY. KING FINDS THIS REQUEST "VERY FAR
OUT" AND OUT OF TOUCH WITH SITUATION IN JORDAN AND
U.S. END SUMMARY

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2. ON APRIL 11 I BRIEFED KING ON SADAT VISIT TO
WASHINGTON AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL.

3. KING HAD VERY FEW QUESTIONS, BUT ASKED IF I COULD
LEAVE HIM MAJOR POINTS IN FORM OF AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH I HAVE
DONE.

4. KING SAID THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK AND INTENDED TO COVER ALL THE MAJOR QUESTIONS WITH PRESIDENT WHICH APPARENTLY AROSE DURING SADAT VISIT.

5. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GOOD IDEA BEFORE HIS VISIT TO HAVE COORDINATED HIS VIEWS WITH SADAT AND ASAD. THIS WAS NOT NOW POSSIBLE WITH SADAT AND HE DID NOT NOW INTEND TO TALK TO ASAD BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON. HE FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO BE FREE TO SPEAK WITHOUT HAVING TIED HIS HANDS THROUGH ANY EARLIER CONSULTATIONS.

6. HE GAVE ME NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS HEARD FROM SADAT DIRECTLY ABOUT LATTER'S WASHINGTON VISIT.

7. HE SAID HOWEVER, THAT PLO HAD BEEN PUSHING HIM HARD FOR SOME KIND OF MEETING BEFORE HE GOES TO WASHINGTON. THIS TOO HE WILL REFUSE. HE NOTED ARAFAT WISHED TO COME TO AMMAN OR ALTERNATIVELY TO MEET KING ANYPLACE LATTER DESIRED. KING SAYS THAT THERE ARE HINTS OF A CHANGED PLO POSITION (NOT CLEAR WHAT) UNDER PRESSURE FROM SADAT. KING ADDED THAT OF COURSE AMMAN VISIT BY ARAFAT IS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. KING ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A MESSAGE FROM KHALID AL FAHUM THROUGH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS ASKING KING TO TAKE A PLO MEMBER WITH HIM IN HIS DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON. KING SAID ALSO THAT HE HAD TURNED DOWN THIS DIRECT PLO REQUEST.

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HE SAID HE WAS AMAZED BY THE REQUEST ITSELF AND THE BASIC MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE JORDANIAN POSITION WHICH THE REQUEST SHOWED, TO SAY NOTHING OF A FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE PLO TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE AMERICAN REACTION TO SUCH A GAMBIT ON HIS PART MIGHT BE.

8. THE KING NOTED AS WELL THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ONCE AGAIN ACTIVE IN THE AREA. HE MENTIONED THE NAME OF PRIMAKOV WHO HAD COME TO AMMAN LAST WEEK FROM DAMASCUS WITH SEVERAL OTHER SOVIETS TO REQUEST AN AUDIENCE. THE KING REFUSED, BUT HE SAID HE MAY WELL SEE THEM IN A FEW DAYS WHEN THEY COME BACK FROM BAGHDAD. HE IMPLIED ALSO THAT THE SOVIETS WERE ALSO REQUESTING HIM TO TAKE A PLO MEMBER TO WASHINGTON WITH HIM. ASSUMPTION HE LEFT ME WITH WAS THAT ARAFAT'S MOSCOW VISIT WAS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ACTION. HE SAID HE DID NOT SEE THE SOVIETS, BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO ANSWER

TO THEM IMMEDIATELY LAST WEEK ON THE QUESTION OF THE ABOVE
PLO REQUEST.

9. KING ALSO SAID THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT ANY
LOWER LEVEL MEETING WITH PLO TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE HIS
U.S. VISIT.

10. HE NOTED THAT CROWN PRINCE HASSAN WILL GO TO
SYRIA TOMORROW AND HE IN PARTICULAR SAID HE WISHES
TO ASK ASAD THROUGH HASSAN TO TELL HIM EXACTLY WHAT
IS GOING ON IN SOUTH LEBANON.

11. COMMENT: KING SEEMS MORE ISOLATED FROM SYRIANS
THAN I HAVE SEEN HIM IN PAST YEAR AND IT QUITE
POSSIBLE THAT PAST PATTERN OF FREQUENT TELEPHONE
CONTACTS HAS BEEN DROPPED. HIS DECISION NOT TO
VISIT ASAD BEFORE GOING TO WASHINGTON IS ALSO
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A CHANGE IN PAST PATTERN OF CLOSE ASAD-HUSSEIN
COOPERATION.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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